

February 9, 2010

The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.
US House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Donna Edwards
US House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 503
Washington, DC 20510-2003

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
B406 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator/Representative:

The establishment of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was an integral component in the growth of the City of Rockville into a thriving urban suburb. Its Metropolitan Branch enabled citizens from Washington to vacation in our City, and Rockville has continued to grow ever since. Today, these same railroad tracks play an important role in our transportation network, as they host MARC and Amtrak passenger train service, while also carrying freight between the costal areas and the Midwest.

The growth of Rockville and many railroad towns throughout America shows the benefits that can be offered by railroads. They not only promote economic development, but can also be a valuable tool for policymakers who are seeking alternatives to simply watching scores of vehicular traffic grow on highways and city streets.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville supports H.R.1806, the Freight Rail Infrastructure Capacity Expansion Act. Should it become law, this legislation would provide a 25% tax incentive for the expansion of railroad capacity. For Rockville, expanded rail capacity could mean additional MARC service, while outlying communities with industries located along the rail lines would benefit from greater rail

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operating flexibility. Additionally, since this tax incentive requires those investing in rail capacity expansions to raise their own capital, it would not result in a "raid" on scarce transportation dollars.

Your co-sponsorship of H.R. 1806 would greatly improve its chances of passage, especially when viewed in the context of how Maryland would greatly benefit from the benefits the bill offers.

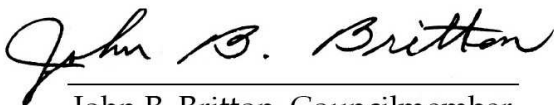
Coincident with passage of this bill is the need to continue responsible government policies toward rail. Though no railroad is perfect, the present policies have allowed rail to flourish to the point that bills such as H.R. 1806 are contemplated by lawmakers. It is very important to therefore keep working policies in place as we look to the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration, we eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,



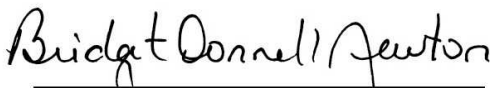
Phyllis Marcuccio, Mayor



John B. Britton, Councilmember



Piotr Gajewski, Councilmember



Bridget Newton, Councilmember



Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember